Mission House. Futtehghur 16th Sept 1844

Society of Enquiry on F. M. Princeton N.J.

Very dear Brethren in Christ. Your kind communication from the pen of your Cor. Secy — W. A. Westcott, bearing date of December 1843 did not reach me, until a few days ago — nearly nine months after date. It breathed a spirit of kindness & brotherly love, which was fully reciprocated on my part, and I wish it were now in my power to return an equivalent, for your very interesting and refreshing letter. I am glad to find that you are disposed to renew your correspondence, with all the different Missions in foreign lands, for this can hardly fail to interest your own minds more deeply in the cause of the heathen, and produce a mutual salutory effect. Amidst the many influences, which serve to warp the mind from its proper course; you need to have the poor, perishing Heathen brought nearer to ~~you~~ placed as it were, at your very door; and we, who are exposed to the blighting, withering influence of Heathenism need often to have ~~our~~ hearts stirred up, by your faithful admonitions and warm exhortations. In the early part of my Missionary career, I enjoyed the benefit of a correspondence with your Society, but since the removal of all my fellow students from the Seminary and the accumulated cares and duties of my station that correspondence has been suspended. In future, while I may be permitted, to labour in the Foreign Field, I will endeavour to keep up an occasional correspondence with your Society, whether personally acquainted with any of its members or not, so far as my other duties will allow. I am aware that the communications of Missionaries are often so general and vague in their character, that they fail either to inform or interest their friends at home. I propose in this letter to give you a history (very brief it must needs be) of the formation & progress of the Furruckabad Mission. On leaving Amer. in 1837 my destination was for Lodiana. I arrived in Calcutta in April of 1838 in company with Brethren Craig — Morris and Morrison, where we were shortly after joined by Br Caldwell. On our way up the Ganges, to reach our stations I was repeatedly asked, "Why push on to Lodiana — in the very verge of British India — a small town and thinly populated country, while you pass by many cities more than twice the size of Lodiana, in which no Missionary has ever settled and leave behind you, the most densely populous part of India." The facts upon which these enquiries rested induced me stop at Futtehghur (instead of going on to Lodiana as directed by the Board) until I could hear from the Ext Comtee. Br Morrison stoped at Allahabad with Br James Wilson and Brs Craig — Caldwell & Morris went on to Saharunpoor & Lodiana. In the mean time, the Lord was opening a wide door for usefulness here. A pious Civilian who had established an Orphan School about 150 miles from this, taught by a converted Native and his wife, was obliged to dismiss his School, in consequence of the death of his wife. On my own

19th Sept by the ~~[illegible]~~ first sent of the Chevo Bro Lowry sailed responsibility I took fifty of these Orphans, of both sexes, and with 25 others collected by a pious Officer at Futtehghur, formed the Futtehghur Orphan Asylum. This number was soon increased to 115 and as I had no authority from the Board for the establishment of such an institution and as there was no money in the Treasury of the Mission for such expenditure, I was obliged to use measures for the collection of funds in this country for the entire establishment and support of the Institution, and up to this date I have not drawn upon the funds of the Board, for one dollar, altho annual expense has averaged $3500. On my arrival at this place two other schools were formed and regular preaching, both in English and Hindustani established, through the valuable aid of the pious Native Baboo Gopeenauth Nundy, whom I brought with me from Futtehpoor. The first letter from the Ex Committee gave a favourable reply to my application for leave to occupy this Station and Futtehghur, together with Allahabad, were considered parts of the Lodiana Mission. In a short time, Allahabad and Futtehghur, owing to their great distance from Lodiana were set off by the Board, as a separate or 2nd Mission called the Allahabad Mission; not long after which we had the addition to our Mission of Revd J L Scott. J Warren and J E Freeman the former of whom joined me at Futtehghur in 1839 and Brs Warren & Freeman settled at Allahabad. In 1840. Futtehghur was set off, by the Board as a separate or 3rd Mission, called the Furruckabad Mission and in the course of the same year, we were joined by Brs Rankin and McAuley.

Shortly after the arrival of these Brn our Mission church was organized embracing twelve members, of whom 3 were converts from Hinduism. The Presbytery of Furruckabad was formed, about the same time (October 1841.) of 4 ministers and one Ruling Elder.

In the latter part of 1843 a branch of our Mission was formed at Mynpoorie about 45 miles west, to which Br Scott removed and in the early part of the present year the vacancy at Futtehghur was supplied by the addition of Br Walsh to our number.

Our little church, which commenced with 12, has now 28 members of whom 17 are from among the heathen. Within the last year the Spirit of God has been poured out upon the Orphans of the Asylum, eleven of whom have been admitted to the communion of the Church, on public profession of their faith. and others are enquiring what they must do to be saved. May I not say, "the Lord hath been with us" and "Behold what He hath wrought". It seems but as yesterday, that I landed here alone, uncertain that the Board would permit me to remain. We have now a Mission of 2 Stations. 5 Missionaries. 5 Female assistant Missionaries. 2 Native assistant Missionaries. 7 Schools 13 Native Teachers. about 400 pupils all of whom are either reading or learning to read the word of God. Our

Presbytery has 5 members and one licentiate who has taken a pretty thorough course of theological study and who will probably be ordained to the full work of the ministry before this reaches you. From among the poor orphans who were brought to me in ignorance and wretchedness, the Lord is raising up a native agency to assist in carrying forward His own blessed cause. Fourteen of them have been married, and settled in a Christian colony, as a model for the surrounding heathen. They are employed as teachers or head workmen in our Carpet & Tent factories, supporting themselves comfortably and exerting a salutary influence, upon those around them — presenting on their family altars, the morning and evening sacrifice and taking part in our religious services. We have also a class of young men, in advance of the others, who are studying with a view to the ministry, three of whom are decidedly pious and one, who is a youth of uncommon talents, will, if spared, be a student of Princeton Seminary. But dear Brethren, do not infer from what I have said, that the wilderness is budding and blossoming as the rose. We are still in a *vast*, howling wilderness, for which no adequate effort has yet been made and in the face of which no lovely feature is yet visible; but darkness reigns unmitigated by the gospel's heavenly light, and our present means are altogether unequal to the work before us. The Lord has opened a wide door of entrance, but I can hardly say of *usefulness* to us. Futtehghur, near to which Br Walsh & I are settled contains a large European population and about 15000 natives. Furruckabad near which Brs Rankin and McAuley live, has no Europeans, but a native population of 100 000. In addition to them, we have not less than twelve towns and villages within an hours drive of the mission premises. In all of them, the gospel is occasionally or statedly preached. But when you consider the ignorant blinded & prejudiced state of the heathen mind, what are we, among so many — not even as proportioned as the five barley loaves, to the hungry multitude that surrounded the Saviour. We are in the heart of a most densely populous country and there are several large native cities, at which we are exceedingly anxious to branches of our mission. But when we appeal to the Board, they tell us, they have neither the men nor means to aid us, for extending our efforts, and as the only alternative, they have proposed the removal of one of the Brn at Allahabad, to occupy the place of one of our present number here, that he may go to form a new Station at Bareilly 70 miles North of this. Whether the Brn at Allahabad, will consent to this reduction of their number, is yet to be decided. And is it so Brethren that our Board of Missions have *not one man* at their disposal for India? Can it be! The very last letter I received from Ama informed me that there were no fewer that 12 Candidates for the charge of a new church they were attempting to gather in the city of Baltimore and that the minds of the congregation were so perplexed by the numerous applicants for the charge, that it was doubtful, whether they could agree upon the choice of a Pastor; and yet is it true, that not one can be found for the perishing millions of India? After years of bodily suffering endured by my dear wife, I have yielded to the advice of my Brn and the positive order of the English Surgeons, to take her to Ama for a year or two, but the fact that the Board have not a man to send in my place, has caused me to change my arrangements and we are resolved to stay, even at the peril of Mrs W's life and that of our little son. Dear Brethren are there none of you willing to join us in this important part of Christ's vineyard, or to take the place of those who are sinking under the heat and burden of the day? Say not, we cannot go, because the Board have not the funds to send us. Have faith in God — resolve to go, and see if the means will not be provided; or if they are not offered to you, go out amongst the churches and tell them you are ready to go and see if they will dare to refuse the means requisite to send you. I have told the Board, if they have a suitable man to send and lack only the means, to transfer my salary to him and I will look, under God, to the people in this heathen land for my support from whom I have already received upward of Rs 35000 for benevolent and Christian purposes since I came here. If motives were wanted to induce you to come to the rescue of this perishing people, I would say that in addition to Idolatry & Mohammedanism, Popery is spreading over this devoted land and threatening to slay its thousands & tens of thousands. The better informed part of the Hindoos are becoming disgusted with the absurdities of their system and without the teachings of God's Spirit, there is no system they will so readily embrace, as that of Popery, which is only a refined system of Idolatry, offering one set of images and formal rights, for another, less imposing.

I do hope dear Brn to be permitted to welcome some of your number to Futtehghur and need I assure you, it will be a cordial welcome! It is matter of pleasing interest to us, that all the members of our mission are Princetonians. We love the Seminary our Alma Mater. We love the venerable Professors — we love the Brethren and often do we mingle our prayers for you all. And now dear Brethren pray for us. We greatly need your prayers. We breathe a poluted atmosphere; we are surrounded by blighting — withering influences — a mountain stands before us, which we have no strength to remove and last of all, we have sluggish — treacherous hearts of unbelief. O! pray that we may be men of faith — men of prayer, men of humility — men of zeal — Men of God. The God of all grace be with you.

Remember me most affectionately to Drs [illegible] Miller and Hodge. Often cheer us dear Brethren by your letters. Gird up the loins of your mind dear Brn. Put on the whole armour of the gospel. The day of conflict with the powers of darkness has come. Be faithful unto death and ye shall obtain a crown of life & be a savour of life unto others also.

Most affectionately Your Brother in Christ Jesus
H. R. Wilson

P.S. Whilst writing this letter I was under the impression that Br. Westcott the writer of the letter I received, would have left the Seminary before this could reach him, but as the sessions are changed, it is likely he may still be there. My best thanks and [illegible] affection to him particularly.

[illegible] al [illegible] House 34 cents

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Ans'd Jan 24 1845.

~~Paid to Bombay.~~

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To / The Corresponding Secretary
of the Society of Eng. on For. Missions
Theological Seminary
Princeton N. J.
U S of Ama.

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